

The Tangentyere Women's



TANGENTYERE
WOMEN'S FAMILY SAFETY GROUP
"Strong Women, Strong Families"

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency...000

**Police Assistance
Line...131 444**

TANGENTYERE:
Night Patrol...
1800 133 110
Family Violence Pre-
vention Programs...
08 8952 1430

24hr Women's Shel-
ter...
08 8952 6075

Public Housing
Safety Officers...
131 444

24hr Counseling...
1800 737
7328

shirleen.campbell@tangentyere.org.au
camel.simpson@tangentyere.org.au

CATT Team...
1800 682 288

Life Line...131 144

Parents Line...
1300 30 1300

Headspace...

89

"WELL BEHAVED
WOMEN RARELY
MAKE HISTORY."

-ELEANOR ROOSEVELT-

LAWSOFTHEMODERNWOMAN

TANGENTYERE

WOMEN'S FAMILY SAFETY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group making good news stories!

The Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group have been making the news this year! The work of the TWFSG members deserves to be acknowledged. The women in the TWFSG work very hard advocating for the safety of women, men and children, training women and service providers on the effects of Family and Domestic Violence, developing resources with messages of No-Violence and listening to the concerns of other women, children and men in their community to work towards solutions. These news articles are a small look into some of this work.

If you have any questions about the work of the TWFSG please contact Shirleen Campbell or Carmel Simpson on (08) 8952 1430

NEWS

Teenagers lead fight against family violence

COUSINS Connie and Kitana Shaw, from Mt Nancy town camp, are standing up for young people.

Two years ago, the teenagers learned how to spot signs of unhealthy relationships and protect themselves against violence at Tangentyere's Family and Domestic Violence Prevention Program.

who she is talking to and then you get the explosion which just blows up out of nowhere, start hitting her, calling her this and that and then you've got the remorse, feeling sorry for himself and saying sorry to her," she explains.

The cousins recently brought staff at Yirara College up to speed about the effects

"All the men should sit down with the youngfellas and tell the youngfellas straight."

Now they are sharing their knowledge with their communities through forums and workshops and held a presentation during a day of training for teachers and staff at Yirara College.

"I wanted to be involved," says 18-year-old Connie.

"A lot of young people are getting into a relationship and most of them would listen to elders, but they need someone young to have their back as well."

She helps young women to recognise the 'cycle of violence'.

"You've got first the honeymoon stage, all happy and then the build-up with him checking the phone to see

of family violence on the students.

They would like male and female elders to teach respect for women.

"All the men should sit down with all the young fellas and tell the youngfellas straight."

"What you're doing is not good, you shouldn't be hitting, you shouldn't lay a hand on a girl," says Connie.

"Talk about violence and marriage before they get older and learn themselves," Kitana adds.

By the time young people form relationships it is often too late as bad behaviours become more difficult to control and the damage is done.



Connie and Kitana Shaw: "A lot of kids are traumatised by family violence."

The cousins have watched many kids become tense, fearful and worse.

"A lot of kids are traumatised by family violence," Kitana says. "Some would act up at school, most of them walk around in the streets to get away from it."

"It scars them for life," Connie adds.

Parents who drink, threaten, demean or abuse each other physically or sexually are

teaching their children such behaviour is normal and when the children follow that example another generation suffers.

Kitana wants to stop this cycle and asks parents who are worried that they may be repeating their own family trauma to "sit down and talk to someone, like counselling".

Connie agrees parents need support.

"Help the parents out, they can help the children out, fix them," she says.

She says instead of waiting for the adults to change, young men and women should "stand up" and join her workshops.

"Come and enjoy the program, don't be shame, be game," she says.

For more information call 8952 1430.

Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group (TWFSG)

was formed after Women from Town Camp Communities identified the need for locally driven initiatives to combat family violence. The women guide and develop the program's directions, development and priorities, with the primary aim of empowering everyone to say No to Violence. They are proactive in working and advocating to make our community safer and are working to address family safety through a range of strategies. Women from Town Camp Communities are trained in identifying family violence and the impacts of violence on families and the wider community. They have created resources such as help cards, safety plan guides, posters and signage and an animated DVD calling on men to "Stand Up" and put an end to family violence.

The TWFSG's work and collaboration with the Alice Springs Police was recognised in 2016 when they were Highly Commended with an Australasian Women's in Policing Award. Over the past 6 months, the TWFSG has trained over 100 Women from Town Camp Communities in Family Violence Prevention training.



The TWFSG recognises that Town Camp women:

- ❖ Are **the experts** of Town Camp history, relationships, knowledge and experience and best and worst practices.
- ❖ Are **the influencers** in our community and the broader Alice Springs community in the area of family safety.
- ❖ Have **lived experience** of family and domestic violence on Town Camps and therefore have knowledge to share.
- ❖ Are **invested** in finding long term systemic solutions to the issues that family and domestic violence bring because it is our family's future.
- ❖ Are **committed** to the program because this is our home, our country, our family, our future.

If you have any questions about the work that the Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group do, please contact the Co-ordinators: Shirleen Campbell shirleen.campbell@tangentyere.org.au and/ or Carmel Simpson on: (08) 8952 1430 carmel.simpson@tangentyere.org.au

Crime Prevention & Safety Expo



The Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group participated in the Alice Springs Crime Prevention & Safety Expo on Saturday the 8th April to highlight the work of the TWFSG in primary prevention and early intervention of Family and Domestic Violence.

On the day, Maree Corbo (Program Manager for the Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program) and Shirleen Campbell (TWFSG Co-coordinator) met with

Dale Wakefield Member for Braiting (Minister for Territory Families) and with Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Northern Australia, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services & Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation). The links made with other services on the day also made this a valuable expo for the TWFSG to be involved in and will now open up more opportunities for the TWFSG to expand training to more women.— *Written by Carmel Simpson.*



(Picture Left) (L-R) Dale Wakefield, Michael Gunner, (Noelene Forbes – background), Maree Corbo, Shirleen Campbell.

Picture above: Michael Gunner, (Noelene Forbes –background), Maree Corbo, Shirleen Campbell.

Upcoming training dates:

Larapinta Town Camp: 15th and 16th May 2017.

St Mary's (Tangentyere Employment Services) 29th May 2017

More training dates available in May & June upon request. Please contact Carmel Simpson on 0411955837 or carmel.simpson@tangentyere.org.au for more details.

Visit from Bourke Aboriginal Health Service

The Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program recently hosted a visit by Reg Kelly and Paula Wilson from Bourke Aboriginal Health Service. Like the Tangentyere Family Violence Prevention Program, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service also received funding through the Department of Social Services (DSS) under "Building Safer Communities for Women". Building Safe Communities for Women and their Children grants designed to support communities to develop and implement practical solutions to reduce violence against women and their children in their own community; to help prevent this violence into the future; and to make a positive difference for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

Australia's National Research Organisation

for Women's Safety (ANROWS) has been contracted by DSS to support the projects to under-take action research. This includes support to design, implement and share findings of action research thereby contributing to the evidence base about what works in creating safe communities for women and their children in Australia.

The purpose of the visit by Reg and Paula from Bourke Aboriginal Health Service was to see the programs and work of Tangentyere Council and to share stories between the two Aboriginal Services. Paula and Reg will be returning to Alice Springs for an ANROWS workshop in June 2017 and we all look forward to seeing them again on their return to Alice Springs.—*Written by Carmel Simpson*



(L-R) Glorianna Moketarinja, Louise Abbott, Maree Corbo, Reg Kelly, (Bourke Aboriginal Health Service), Minnie Joseph, Gwen Gillen, Paula Wilson (Bourke Aboriginal Health Service), Connie Shaw, (front) Helen Gillen.